

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 00401 210135Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /075 W
-----093484 210142Z /64

O 210115Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7021
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 401

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EC PU
SUBJ: ECUADOR-PERU BORDER CLASHES

1. THIS IS THE LATEST ON THE BORDER SITUATION AS TOLD TO ME
BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER AT NOON TODAY.
2. THE ECUADOREAN PATROL THAT HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE
PERUVIANS HAS NOW RETURNED TO ITS BASE. IT HAD GOTTEN LOST AND
A HELICOPTER
HAD TO GUIDE THE PATROL BACK.
3. GENERAL CABEERA, CHIEF OF STAFF, ECUADOREAN ARMY, WAS
TO PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING THIS MORNING TO GENERAL RICHTER DURING THEIR
BORDER MEETING.
 - A) BOTH SIDES WOULD AGREE TO ABOLISH THE CURRENT OUTPOSTS AND
HAVE THEIR TROOPS REMAIN IN THEIR PERMANENT DETACHEMENTS.
 - B. THERE WOULD BE A SUSPENSION OF ALL PATROLS IN THE AREA FOR
SOME STATED PERIOD OF TIME.
 - C) ONCE PATROLS WERE RESUMED, THEY WOULD FOLLOW CERTAIN AGREED-
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UPON ROUTES.

D) WHENEVER PATROLS ENCOUNTERED ONE ANOTHER THEIR ORDERS WOULD BE
SIMPLY TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AND TO TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION.

E) BOTH SIDES WOULD COMPLETELY CHANGE ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL
IN THE DISPUTED AREA IN ORDER TO AVOID THE PASSIONS AROUSED BY THE

RECENT CLASHES FROM PRECIPITATION NEW CLASHES.

4. YALA SAID THAT THE ECUADOREANS HAD LEARNED THAT MOST OF THE PERUVIAN FLEET HAD LEFT CALLAO AND WAS HEADING NORTH TOWARD ECUADOR. I TOLD HIM THAT OUR INFORMATION WAS THAT THIS WAS A ROUTINE SERIES OF MANEUVERS THAT HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR SOME TIME. HE SAID THAT THEY TOO UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS MANEUVER HAD BEEN PLANNED IN ADVANCE, BUT ON THE OTHERHAND, COMING TOGETHER WITH THE BORDER INCIDENTS, IT WAS ECUADOR'S CONCERN THAT THIS MIGHT BE ALL PART OF A PRE-ARRANGED AGGRESSIVE PLAN BY PERU. I COMMENTED THAT I HARDLY THOUGHT THAT PERU WOULD WISH TO START A FULL-FLEDGED WAR WITH ECUADOR AT THIS TIME. IT WAS ONE THING TO PUBLICIZE THE BORDER INCIDENTS AS A MEANS OF DIVERTING ATTENTION FROM ITS DOMESTIC-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS; IT WAS QUITE ANOTHER TO START A WAR AT A TIME WHEN THE COUNTRY BADLY NEEDED THE GOOD WILL OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. AYAALA SAID HE HOPED I WAS RIGHT.

5. IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE UNDER SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, GUSTAVO RUALES, HE TOLD ME THAT, WHILE FOR THE TIME BEING THE CURRENT TENSIONS PREVENT POSSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS OF THE BORDER PROBLEM,

THE GOE WAS STILL HOPEFUL THAT SUCH DISCUSSIONS COULD BE RESUMED IN THE FUTURE. HOWEVER, THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE A RATHER LENGTHY COOLING-OFF PERIOD BEFORE THAT COULD HAPPEN.
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BLOOMFIELD

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Message Attributes

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